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don, the depreciation on the several kinds of silver coin in circulation was then found to be

	£.	s.	d.
Crowns were less in intrinsic than nominal value.	3	8	6½ per cent.
Half-crowns.	10	19	9
Shillings.	32	12	6
Sixpences.	62	0	8

Since that period, the silver coinage is much worse. In Ireland we ran the same course, till from the wearing of the silver, and by the artifices of coiners, who found it so profitable and easy to imitate a debased coinage, a miserable substitute was given in the bad silver issued by the bank of Ireland, in tenpennies, fivepennies, &c. These were also easily imitated, and when the period of their depression comes in its turn, the public will probably suffer as much as they did in 1805, by the bad shillings. Such are the injuries sustained by having a depreciated circulating medium; the people in the end become heavy sufferers.

Exchange during this month has been pretty nearly at the same rates as last month, or about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent lower, and discount on bank notes also from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ lower.

In the commercial Report for last month, at page 404, 10th line from the bottom, for "ready," read ready.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From November 20, till December 20.

I would not enter on my list of friends,
(Though grac'd with polished manners and fine sense,
Yet wanting sensibility) the man
Who needlessly sets foot upon a worm.

The sum is this. If man's convenience, health,
Or safety interfere, his rights and claims
Are paramount, and must extinguish theirs.
Else they are all—the meanest things that are,
As free to live, and to enjoy that life,
As God was free to form them at the first,
Who in his sov'reign wisdom made them all.

COWPER.

Did man only make use of his powers of destruction in self-defence, and take the most speedy and efficacious means to terminate the tortures of the animals on which he inflicted death, the most rigid moralist might justify the act.

The first and most important object in the study of the natural history of animals is, after having distinguished and characterized the species so as to convey our knowledge to others, to attend to their manners and instincts, in order that we may turn their valuable qualifications to our advantage, and be able to defend ourselves against the bad propensities of others, and as it requires little observation to perceive that insects strong from their numbers, and among the most powerful enemies to man, and that notwithstanding the most regular attention on his part, and constant predatory warfare carried on by his useful allies the birds, many species multiply so rapidly as to bid defiance to his utmost art, should he neglect for a very short time to exert his skill to destroy.

In the year 1788, at Kennington, in England, a fine white down was observed adhering to the branches of apple-trees, which was soon found to be followed by a remarkable excrescence, and on examination by some Naturalists, the cotton-like substance proved to be the covering of a small insect of the Linnæan genus, *Coccus* or *Cochineal*, and the excrescence to be caused by their perforation of the bark, various means were tried for destroying them by washes and fumigation, but without success, and they have continued to increase, so as now to threaten destruction to all the apple trees in the kingdom. As that insect has made its appearance on some apple trees in the neighbourhood of Belfast, supposed by the importation of a single one from London, it is worth making the attempt to stop its progress. The most effectual method of destruction is rubbing the part affected with a stiff brush. The insect on being bruised gives out a purplish liquid which stains the finger, they are protected by their downy covering from being injured by either cold, or moisture, and seem by its means to elude also the prying eyes of birds.

From the non-appearance of those birds of passage, which usually visit us before severe winters, and the mildness of the weather for some time past, it is highly proba-

ble that the winter may pass without any very severe weather. This has however been but an uninteresting month, the stormy and wet weather which has prevailed has prevented the singing of even those few birds which often enliven this dreary season, during which mosses and lichens alone flourish.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From November 20, till December 20.

The months this season almost seem to have changed their characters, October and November appeared not as the forerunners of winter, and it is only during this month that winter has appeared with the usual attendants of floods and tempests. Those curious transitions from frost to rain, which are mostly prevalent before the permanent frosts of January, have, for some time past, begun the daily weather; and it is worthy of being remarked how suddenly the change takes place in a very short time; from a clear sky and freezing atmosphere, clouds overcast the horizon, and rain falls, which again in as short a period clears away, and frost again commences, this, when the sun rises (as the people say takes the air) and rain again begins to fall, all these varieties might lately have been observed during 24 hours.

November 21, 23,	-----	Showery days.
24,	-----	Pleasant dry day.
25, 26,	-----	Showery.
29,	-----	Fine dry day,
30,	-----	Showery.
December 1, 3,	-----	Showery.
6, 7,	-----	Dry.
8, 9,	-----	Wet and stormy.
10,	-----	Showers.
11, 15,	-----	Snow showers.
16,	-----	Great rain and high floods.
17,	-----	Dry day
18,	-----	A shower in the evening.
19,	-----	Dry.
20,	-----	Rain most part of the day.

The Barometer has been mostly 29. It was on the 22d, 23d and 28th of November, and 8th December, as high as 30, on the 15th it was as low as 28.1.

The Thermometer was on the 6th of December, as high in the morning as 51, on the 9th, 49. On the 28th of November, and December 17, it was at 30, and during the rest of this period it was seldom above 40.

The wind has been observed 10 times Northerly, but the prevalent wind has been S.W. having been observed 18 times in that direction.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA,

FOR JANUARY, 1810.

1st. The Moon rises at half past 3, in the morning, to the east of the first star of the Virgin, and is soon after followed by the first of the Balance.

5, Is new Moon at 14 min. past 3 P.M. but, as she is nearly five degrees north of the ecliptic, or Sun's apparent annual path, there cannot be an eclipse at this time.

10, The Moon passes the meridian at 22 min. past 4, P.M. the two eastern of the four stars in the square being above her, but a little to the east of the meridian. Jupiter is at some distance to the east of her, but Mars at a far greater below her in the western hemisphere. At six she is $65^{\circ} 53'$ from Aldebaran.

15, She rises at 55 min. past 0, afternoon, is in the meridian at 14 min. past 8 having above her to the West the Pleiades, and much nearer, but below her and to the East of the meridian, Aldebaran with the Hyades. She sets at 24 min. past 3 the next morning.

20, The Moon is full, but without an eclipse as she is too far North of the ecliptic. She rises under the two first Stars of the Twins and nearly in a line with them, her brilliancy confounds the small Stars in the crab near her, and we can notice only the two first of the Twins, the first and third of the less Dog, and the first and third of the Lion forming the chief Stars in the groupe around her.